

Vol. 1 of 1925

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL, ETC., PRODUCTION, SEASON 1923-24.

THE figures in parentheses refer to the previous year unless otherwise stated.

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION.

Total Area.—5,457,592 (5,316,670) acres, equal to 10.40 (10.36) acres per inhabitant. The area was distributed as follows:—Crops, 3,562,551 (3,575,452) acres; permanent sown grasses, 30,800 (22,278) acres; fallow, 1,864,241 (1,718,940) acres.

Distribution of Cropped Area.—Total, 3,562,551 (3,575,452) acres, decrease, 12,901 acres. The area under cereals of all kinds for grain, hay, and fodder was 3,465,759 (3,481,252) acres; peas and beans, 4,810 (5,311) acres; orchards, 33,473 (33,003) acres; vineyards, 49,303 (46,750) acres; root crops, market gardens, &c., 8,487 (8,737) acres; other crops, 720 (399) acres.

Wheat.—2,814,027 (2,830,591) acres, decrease 16,564 acres. For grain, 2,418,415 (2,453,086) acres; hay, 381,962 (359,834) acres; green forage, 13,650 (17,671) acres.

Barley.—190,581 (201,591) acres, decrease 29,010 acres. Of the grain area 166,824 (197,619) acres were returned as malting, and 17,462 (17,664) acres as cape and other.

Oats.—415,068 (393,462) acres, increase 21,606 acres. For grain, 176,299 (173,716) acres; hay, 234,899 (208,769) acres.

Orchards.—33,473 (33,003) acres, increase 470 acres, making an increase of 3,388 acres in five years. Trees of bearing age account for 26,157 acres.

Vineyards.—49,303 (46,750) acres, increase 2,553 acres, making an increase of 18,280 acres in five years. The areas were classified as for wine, 28,991 (28,957) acres; drying, 19,499 (16,573) acres; table, 813 (840) acres; 38,455 acres were shown as being of bearing age.

Miscellaneous.—Market gardens, 1,448 (1,438) acres; pumpkins and melons, 286 (220) acres; tomatoes, 669 (498) acres; potatoes, 5,239 (5,749) acres; onions, 289 (364) acres; other root crops, 556 (468) acres; nurseries, 169 (185) acres; chicory, 124 (105) acres; cotton, 9 (32) acres; grass seed, 405 (62) acres.

SUMMARY OF CROPPED AND FALLOWED AREAS IN DIVISIONS.

Division.	Area Under Crop.		Land in Fallow.	
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Central	961,925	922,927	524,916	534,042
Lower North	927,757	966,370	657,796	671,697
Upper North	271,789	266,866	193,801	193,810
South-Eastern	136,415	101,433	14,948	21,260
Western	604,129	609,301	162,100	176,430
Murray Mallee	673,437	695,654	165,379	267,002
Total State ..	3,575,452	3,562,551	1,718,940	1,864,241
Increase	—	-12,901	—	145,301

PRODUCTION.

Wheat.—34,551,955 (28,784,767) bushels, averaging per acre, 14.29 (11.73) bushels, an increase of 5,767,188bush. on the previous year, and 7,047,440bush. above the mean of the five years ending 1923-24.

Barley.—3,251,885 (3,697,849) bushels, averaging per acre 17.65 (17.18) bushels, decrease, 445,964bush.; malting barley represented 2,986,617 (3,450,120) bushels of the total.

Oats.—2,157,938 (1,681,783) bushels, averaging per acre 12.24 (9.68) bushels, increase 476,155bush.

Hay (all kinds).—781,768 (697,189) tons, averaging per acre 1.24 (1.21) tons, increase 84,579 tons; wheaten hay yielded 500,572 (467,514) tons, and eaten 261,581 (214,005) tons.

Peas and Beans.—64,847 (68,054) bushels, averaging per acre 13.48 (12.81) bushels, decrease 3,207bush.

Orchards.—Estimated value of production £819,222 (£623,756), averaging per acre of bearing age £31 6s. 5d. (£24 8s. 6d.), the five years average being £653,797 and £26 6s. 6d. Apple yield 1,143,274 (334,375) bushels, or 310,402bush. above the previous record of 832,872 bushels in 1915-16.

Vineyards.—Estimated value of production £1,448,706 (£1,260,378), averaging per acre of bearing age £27 12s. 5d. (£37 10s. 4d.), the five years average being £1,259,707 and £39 7s. 11d. Wine made, 10,756,538 (8,653,579) gallons, increase 2,102,959 gallons on the record vintage of the previous season. Wine stocks at June 30th last, 11,275,813 (9,197,953) gallons, increase 2,077,860 gallons. The yield of grapes was 110,295 (85,701) tons, averaging per acre of bearing age 2.87 (2.55) tons; increase 24,594 tons on the record yield of 1922-3. The yield was utilised as follows:—For winemaking, 68,374 (55,047) tons; drying, 40,865 (29,340) tons; and table and export, 1,056 (1,314) tons. Oversea exports of vineyard production.—Currants, 67,595 (64,432) cwt., value £188,112 (£199,180); raisins, 54,647 (15,755) cwt., £184,049 (£72,723); wines, 753,495 (586,880) gallons, £133,420 (£109,378), making a total value of £505,581 (£381,281). In addition, wine was exported to other States as follows:—1,701,062 (1,689,378) gallons, value £494,666 (£526,053), making the grand total exports of wine, 2,454,557 (2,276,258) gallons, £628,086 (£635,431).

Dried Fruits.—Apricots, 6,851 (12,456) cwt.; apples, 1,077 (1,203) cwt.; pears, 1,827 (1,186) cwt.; peaches, 5,335 (7,796) cwt.; plums and prunes, 4,183 (3,743) cwt.; figs, 158 (168) cwt.; currants, 131,000 (96,807) cwt.; increase, 34,193cwt. on the previous record in 1922-23; raisins—Sultanas, 82,838 (39,670) cwt.; other raisins, 42,168 (29,591) cwt.; total, 125,006 (69,261) cwt.; increase of 55,745cwt. over the previous record in 1922-23.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Market gardens, £100,951 (£98,480); pumpkins and melons 1,894 (1,672) tons; tomatoes, 232,622 (155,091) bushels; potatoes, 21,327 (17,356) tons; onions, 2,314 (2,648) tons; other root crops, 4,050 (2,691) tons; nurseries, £39,995 (£42,490); chicory, 471 (334) tons; cotton, 3,613 (12,427) lbs.

VALUE OF PRODUCTION.

The value of all agricultural production for the season 1923-24, based on the mean seasonal metropolitan wholesale market prices, has been estimated at £14,442,476, compared with £13,145,908, the previous season. This represents an average of £27 10s. 5d. (£25 12s. 4d.) per head of population.

The valuation for the season 1923-24 compared with the previous season are grouped as follows:—

Cereals (wheat, barley, oats, &c.), £8,919,187 (£8,046,651); hay, green fodder, and straw, £2,800,539 (£2,757,271); orchards, £819,222 (£623,756); vineyards, £1,448,706 (£1,260,378); market gardens and root crops, £374,697 (£389,366); all other, £80,125 (£68,486).

The importance of the cereal and hay crops to the State is emphasised by the fact that they represent for the past five seasons an annual mean of well over 80 per cent. of the total value of crop production.

RIVER MURRAY SETTLEMENTS.

The areas under irrigated culture in the vicinity of the River Murray, in comparison with five years ago, is 27,866 (13,706) acres, an increase of 14,160 acres. The area is distributed as follows:—

Orchards, 6,111 (4,856) acres, increase 1,255 acres; vineyards 16,716 (6,416) acres, increase 10,300 acres; lucerne, green forage, etc., 5,039 (2,434) acres, increase 2,605 acres. Trees of bearing age account for 4,324 acres, and vines of bearing age for 11,956 acres.

ARTIFICIAL MANURES USED.

Total quantity, 121,821 (114,158) tons, average per acre 80.82 (82.81) lbs., proportion manured to total crop area, 80.75 (86.37) per cent. W. L. JOHNSTON, Government Statist. Statistical Department, Adelaide, January 12th, 1925.

£14,156.10
£26.19.6

£11,623.36
756

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR SEASON 1923-24 IN COMPARISON WITH SEASON 1922-23, ALSO MEANS FOR QUINQUENNIALS
ENDING 1918-19 AND 1923-24.

No. 1.—Area under Cultivation.

Crop.	Seasons.		†Increase.	Means of Quinquennium ending	
	1922-23.	1923-24.		1918-19.	1923-24.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Cereals—					
Wheat	2,453,086	2,418,415	— 34,671	2,512,446	2,270,015
Barley—					
Malting	197,619	166,824	— 30,795	76,702	165,437
Other	17,664	17,462	— 202	19,469	20,649
Total Barley	215,283	184,286	— 30,997	96,171	186,086
Oats	173,716	176,299	2,583	137,217	166,864
Maize	116	94	— 22	238	152
Rye	241	116	— 125	1,363	355
Other Cereals	—	—	—	47	—
Total Cereals	2,842,442	2,779,210	— 63,232	2,747,482	2,623,472
Hay—					
Wheaten	359,834	381,962	22,128	353,902	369,496
Oaten	208,769	234,899	26,130	140,700	207,153
Lucerne	4,973	7,270	2,297	2,888	4,498
Other	4,234	7,136	2,902	11,999	4,865
Total Hay	577,810	631,267	53,457	509,489	586,012
Green Forage—					
Wheaten	17,671	13,650	— 4,021	16,021	24,714
Barley	2,970	3,846	876	3,261	3,776
Oaten	10,977	3,870	— 7,107	6,374	8,724
Lucerne	26,397	30,815	4,418	14,529	23,505
Other	2,985	3,101	116	3,937	3,522
Total Green Forage	61,000	55,282	— 5,718	44,122	64,241
Pulse—					
Peas	5,216	4,718	— 498	6,682	5,606
Beans	95	92	— 3	57	66
Total Pulse	5,311	4,810	— 501	6,739	5,672
Orchards—					
In bearing	25,538	26,157	618	20,460	24,837
Not bearing	7,465	7,316	— 149	7,797	7,314
Total Orchards	33,003	33,473	469	28,257	32,150
Vineyards—					
Wine grapes	28,070	28,991	921	19,732	26,326 26,148
Table grapes	28,957	813	— 27	1,052	737
Drying grapes	17,340 14,053	19,499	1,659 2,546	8,134	14,321 14,499
In bearing	33,595	38,455	4,860	24,329	31,977
Not bearing	13,155	10,848	— 2,307	4,589	9,407
Total Vineyards	46,750	49,303	2,553	28,918	41,384
Root Crops—					
Potatoes	5,749	5,239	— 510	4,831	5,002
Onions	364	289	— 75	346	372
Other root crops	468	556	88	323	424
Total Root Crops	6,581	6,084	— 497	5,500	5,798
Market gardens	1,438	1,448	10	1,594	1,437
Tomatoes	498	669	171	303	487
Pumpkins and melons	220	286	66	256	275
Nurseries	185	169	— 16	163	178
All other crops	214	550	337	31	217
GRAND TOTAL CROPPED AREA	3,575,452	3,562,551	— 12,901	3,372,854	3,361,324
Crops per head of population	6.97	6.79	— 0.18	7.53	6.69
Sown grasses	22,278	30,800	8,522	24,440	21,376
Fallow land	1,718,940	1,864,241	145,301	1,453,071	1,659,952
GRAND TOTAL CULTIVATED	5,316,670	5,457,592	140,922	4,850,365	5,042,652
Cultivation per head of population	10.36	10.40	0.04	10.83	10.03

† Minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

No. 2.—Production of Principal Crops.

Chief Items.	Unit of Quantity.	Seasons		† Increase.	Means of Quinquennium ending		Average Per Acre.	
		1922-23.	1923-24.		1918-19.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Cereals—								
Wheat	Bushel	28,784,767	34,551,955	5,767,188	27,007,303	27,504,515	11·73	14·29
Barley—								
Malting	Bushel	3,450,120	2,986,617	— 463,503	1,291,607	3,012,059	17·46	17·90
Other	Bushel	247,729	265,268	17,539	297,950	312,645	14·02	15·19
Total Barley	Bushel	3,697,849	3,251,885	— 445,964	1,589,557	3,324,704	17·18	17·65
Oats	Bushel	1,681,783	2,157,938	476,155	1,426,294	1,820,535	9·68	12·24
Maize	Bushel	2,716	1,266	— 1,450	3,910	2,664	23·41	13·47
Rye	Bushel	2,181	1,014	— 1,167	11,602	2,901	9·05	8·74
Hay—								
Wheaten	Ton	467,514	500,572	33,058	427,123	466,396	1·30	1·31
Oaten	Ton	214,005	261,581	47,576	150,750	224,271	1·03	1·11
Lucerne	Ton	10,685	11,908	1,223	5,647	9,225	2·15	1·64
Other	Ton	4,985	7,707	2,722	12,932	5,540	1·18	1·08
Total Hay	Ton	697,189	781,768	84,579	596,452	705,432	1·21	1·24
Green Forage (cut and fed off)	Value £	131,041	143,166	12,125	76,045	120,678	—	—
Peas and Beans	Bushel	68,054	64,847	— 3,207	69,955	74,760	12·81	13·48
Straw	Ton	12,167	9,453	— 2,714	16,854	11,606	—	—
Potatoes	Ton	17,356	21,327	3,971	15,181	17,069	3·02	4·07
Onions	Ton	2,648	2,314	— 334	2,281	2,699	7·27	8·01
Market Gardens	Value £	98,480	100,951	2,471	73,364	93,249	68·48	69·72
Tomatoes	Bushel	155,091	232,622	77,531	80,888	144,015	311·43	347·72
Pumpkins and Melons	Ton	1,672	1,894	222	1,801	2,104	7·60	6·62
Nurseries	Value £	42,490	39,995	— 2,495	15,934	33,405	229·68	233·66
Vineyards—								
Total grape production	Ton	85,701	110,295	24,594	42,641	78,038	* 2·55	* 2·87
Wine made	Gallon	8,653,579	10,756,538	2,102,959	4,008,683	7,751,942	—	—
Currants	Cwt.	96,807	131,000	34,193	50,639	90,010	—	—
Raisins { Sultanas	Cwt.	39,670	82,838	43,168	25,553	45,547	—	—
Other	Cwt.	29,591	42,168	12,577	14,989	24,130	—	—
Table grapes	Ton	1,314	1,056	— 258	1,276	1,096	—	—
Miscellaneous—								
Wattle bark	Ton	5,645	7,081	1,436	4,978	6,481	—	—
Gums—Yacca, &c.	Ton	669	377	— 292	73	1,140	—	—
Orchards—								
Almonds	Cwt.	8,638	9,592	954	4,229	7,032	—	—
Walnuts and other nuts	Cwt.	545	499	— 46	401	495	—	—
Apples	Bushel	384,375	1,143,274	758,899	391,057	649,498	—	—
Apricots	Bushel	268,152	178,476	— 89,676	137,597	196,683	—	—
Cherries	Bushel	41,714	38,204	— 3,510	27,236	38,872	—	—
Figs	Bushel	18,714	19,322	608	12,965	17,589	—	—
Olives	Cwt.	4,905	15,285	10,380	6,119	11,211	—	—
Peaches and nectarines	Bushel	231,926	182,256	— 49,670	120,022	197,611	—	—
Peanuts	Cwt.	—	3	3	29	2	—	—
Pears	Bushel	125,353	199,067	73,714	106,786	158,371	—	—
Plums and prunes	Bushel	123,211	137,262	14,051	87,888	127,773	—	—
Quinces	Bushel	37,623	38,112	489	33,641	37,993	—	—
Oranges	Bushel	411,508	345,408	— 66,100	157,255	334,328	—	—
Lemons	Bushel	53,483	51,154	— 2,329	32,639	50,381	—	—
Other citrus fruits	Bushel	2,422	2,378	— 44	455	1,727	—	—
Raspberries	Cwt.	2,211	2,320	109	2,182	2,055	—	—
Strawberries	Cwt.	1,305	2,154	849	1,573	1,563	—	—
Other bush and berry fruits	Cwt.	1,657	2,026	369	2,351	2,073	—	—
Unspecified	Bushel	3,837	4,086	249	2,362	3,856	—	—

* Bearing age.

† Minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

Statistical Department, Adelaide, January 12th, 1925.

W. L. JOHNSTON Government Statist.